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extensive; but still presenting such difficulties that without an organised system of provisioning troops as suggested by Mr. Galton, it is impossible for them to traverse it.

MR. PLINY MILES, of the United States.—I have travelled through some of the wild parts of North America, and I can confirm Dr. Barth with respect to the danger of the natives discovering and destroying the caches. A method found successful for preserving a cache has been adopted by some American travellers. At a convenient distance from, but not too near the real cache, they make a false one, put in a small quantity of provisions, and make numerous footmarks about it. The Indians come and find the place, and suppose that it is the only cache there. But it requires a great deal of art to deceive them. In some seasons of the year travellers get along better with a supply of parched Indian corn than to rely entirely on animal food. The corn is light and very nourishing. Buffalo meat, dried and salted with care, and placed in caches, will keep a long time. I quite agree with Count Strzelecki as to the cause of the failure of the United States expedition.

MR. GALTON, F.R.G.S.—I ought to explain that I consider my method especially applicable to untraversed tracts of open country, that resist the efforts of explorers on account of their aridity and extent, such as exist in many parts of Australia, and which it is the object of an advancing civilization to explore systematically. In countries that are half desert, where there are natives prowling freely about, my method would be of less service, even if the security of the caches were unquestionable. When expeditions were planned upon a large scale the caches and depôts might easily be guarded by encampments of small parties of men detached for the purpose.

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The Second Paper read was :—

*Narrative of a Journey in the Bushman and Namaqualand Districts of the Cape of Good Hope, with Map.* By ROBERT MOFFAT, Esq., F.R.G.S., Government Surveyor. (1st Part.)

Communicated by the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, F.R.G.S., H. M. Secretary of State for the Colonies.

[This paper will be printed in full in the Journal.]

THE PRESIDENT.—Our thanks are due to Mr. Moffat for his able memoir, and also to Mr. Labouchere of the Colonial Office for his kindness in communicating it. As the brother-in-law of Mr. Moffat, our valued friend Dr. Livingstone, is present, I will not occupy your time, but at once call upon him to explain what he knows of the region described. Before I do so, however, I must express my sincere gratification at the announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons, that Her Majesty's Government has decided to give due and becoming aid to Dr. Livingstone, so that he may pursue his researches in Africa, and overcome those difficulties which have hitherto prevented so many travellers from penetrating into the interior of Africa. I may also state that Government has written most explicit instructions to our minister in Portugal, to aid Dr. Livingstone by every means in his power, and to prefer a similar request to the Portuguese Government. I have only to express my hope that the Government will appoint two or three men of science to accompany Dr. Livingstone, and to assist him in developing the natural history and resources of the country, in accordance with wishes long entertained by ourselves, and in compliance with the request of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. LIVINGSTONE, F.R.G.S.—The first remark that I would make on Mr. Mof-

fat's paper is this, that in such papers as we have heard to-night we see the great value of the Geographical Society. We learn what to avoid, and that is something. In 1852, when I was at the Cape, an enlightened colonial governor sent the Rhadamanthus steamer round to this part of the west coast, in a great hurry, to prevent a reported American vessel sending in gunpowder to the Caffres. I do not know whether any person raised the rumour because he was anxious to get in his own gunpowder on the other or eastern side of the country; but had the governor known what we have heard to-night, he might have scorned the report with—"They might as well attempt to send it to the moon." The captain of the Rhadamanthus, long before the country was known and the chart laid down by Captain Nolloth, went and galloped about, and did not find a single soul, nor anything else. The country was entirely parched up; and as for carrying gunpowder across to the Caffres, why, I defy anybody to carry himself at that particular season. This country is interesting to me, because my father-in-law, Mr. Moffat, lived there forty years ago, near the part called Pella. At that time missions were just beginning. People did not know much about them, and some of the sagacious men of that day thought that "any man who could read a Bible and make a wheelbarrow was fit to be a missionary." Mr. Moffat went out when these principles were current, and his salary was the enormous sum of 25*l.* a year. He proceeded to that part of the country near Pella, and took up his residence in a Caffre mat-hut, with a half-caste Dutchman, named Africaner, a clever man, but a great enemy of the colonists. The huts of the village were situated in a circle, and in the middle of the circle the cattle were kept. Mr. Moffat was sometimes aroused by a pair of bulls getting up during the night to settle their quarrels, one sometimes pushing the other into the hut. All the food he had for nearly two years was milk, zebra meat, or any other wild meat that he could get by his gun. After living that period at Pella, and finding it totally impossible to elevate the people, he set off up the Orange River on horseback, and suffered very great privations. He had no bedding with him, and he and his companions sunk holes in the sand as beds, and covered themselves over with sand. One of the men thought it safer to sleep on the surface, for, said he, a lion might come and disturb them in the night, and those covered with sand could not run off; upon which Mr. Moffat remarked, "A lion will not take a head so long as he can get a body." He succeeded in reaching Griqua Town; and finding a better country, he resolved to establish a mission in the Bechuanaland. He found the country, just as his son, the present Mr. Moffat, junr., had described it, exceedingly arid and difficult to traverse. This being the nature of the country, and the fact being comparatively well known, it is quite marvellous that another colonial governor should pass a gunpowder ordinance, whereby our friends, the Bechuanas, could not get a single ounce of gunpowder to defend themselves against the Boers. The Bechuanas could not attack the colony on that side; this arid country was a sufficient defence, and the Bechuanas had never attempted it, nor been guilty of cattle stealing even. There was a complete barrier against them in the nature of the country, and yet the colonial governor passed a law whereby the colony engaged to prevent ammunition going to them. Yet the Boers, who had been fighting against us, can have as much as they like. We condescend to act as policemen to the Boers, and lose our good name in consequence. In other parts of the country, far to the north, and at least 400 miles in the interior, the English are known as "the friends of the black man;" yet here this poor governor, simply by not being "up in his geography," destroyed the influence of the English name. Mr. Moffat had referred to the Bushman. It is a country just adapted for the Bushmen. The vegetation is capable of sustaining a great deal of drought, and there are numerous tuberous roots on which these people can subsist. Sheep can likewise subsist on those plants during certain parts of the year.

Mr. Moffat refers to certain fountains in calcareous tufa towards the middle of the country. It is found that all these fountains if cut into from a lower level will yield a perennial spring. I have seen farmers, guided by a patch of rushes, begin a deep canal a mile off, and cut up to the rushes, and so get a stream which runs the whole year. Occasionally I have seen them cut into a well that had ceased to flow, and get a constant supply of water. The Boers in the colony are enterprising and industrious, and are developing a trade in wool. Lately, Mr. Salt has sent out twenty alpacas to the Cape, which I have no doubt will succeed well. There is every probability that in the course of time it will become a more flourishing colony.

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The Third Paper read was :—

*Latest Accounts of the Fate of Dr. Vogel.*

Communicated by the Right Hon. the EARL of CLARENDON, K.G., F.R.G.S., Foreign Office.

MY LORD,

Alexandria, October 23, 1857.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hammond's despatch, Consular No. 8 of the 9th ultimo, instructing me to direct the British Vice-Consul at Khartúm to make all possible inquiries as to the fate of Dr. Vogel, the African traveller, and in the event of its being ascertained that Dr. Vogel is in a state of captivity, to authorize the Vice-Consul to adopt the most effectual measures he can devise, and if necessary to offer a ransom, for Dr. Vogel's release.

I immediately transmitted the necessary instructions to Mr. Vice-Consul Petherick at Khartúm; but having since learnt that there is an ambassador from the King of Darfur to the Viceroy of Egypt, now at Cairo, I have, through Mr. Messarra, the Dragoman of this Consulate-General, been in communication with that personage, and I transmit a report of a verbal statement made by the Ambassador of Darfur to Mr. Messarra, which I fear almost places beyond a doubt the reported murder of Dr. Vogel by the King of Wadai.\*

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

G. GREEN.

*The Earl of Clarendon, &c.*

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*Verbal Statement of SAID MOHAMET SAANGHITI, Ambassador from the King of Darfur to the Viceroy of Egypt.*

Cairo, 19th October, 1857.

Before my departure from Darfur I was informed by several persons (natives of Senegal) that three European travellers, under the names of Abdul Carim, Abdul Wahed, and Abdul Samad, had arrived from Bengazi at Fezzan, and from thence to Bornu, where they met Seik Umar, the prince governing that district, who received them very well, and gave them letters of recommendation to the governors of Begharum, Mandara, Adamao, Houssa, and Malla, provinces inde-

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\* See Proceedings R. G. S., No. I., vol. ii., p. 30.—Ed.